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(*f*) if the Government have no information with reference to clauses (*a*) to (*e*), whether the Government will be pleased to call for the information?

A.—Government have no information. A report has been called for.

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" If the report is received, will the Government lay it on the table? "

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Yes."

Police.

Duties of Circle Inspectors of Police.

* 52 *Q.*—Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) what are the duties of the Circle Inspectors of Police in this Presidency; and

(*b*) whether they do any investigation into crimes as part of their ordinary duties?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The hon. Member is referred to Orders of the Madras Police, Volume I.

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI :—" Is there a book called 'Orders of the Madras Police', or is it the Police Manual? "

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" The Madras Police Manual, Volume I, Executive Orders, 1917."

Finance.

Excess expenditure during the last two years over grants sanctioned.

* 53 *Q.*—Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo : Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of cases in which excess expenditure over a grant or grants in each of the years of 1921–22 and 1923–24 was incurred;

(*b*) if there are any such cases, whether they related to Transferred or Reserved department and also to voted or non-voted items of expenditure; and

(*c*) whether subsequent sanction of the Legislature was obtained in any or all these cases?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) Excess expenditure over the grants voted by the Legislative Council occ rred in six cases in the year 1921–22, five of these relating to Reserved department and one to a Transferred department. As regards non-voted items of expenditure, excesses over the sanctioned allotments occurred under six major heads. Details of the above excesses will be found in the Appropriation Report on the accounts of this Presidency for 1921–22.

The Appropriation Report for the year 1923–24 has not yet been received by Government.

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(c) The sanction of the Legislative Council to excesses over the sanctioned grants relating to the year 1921–22 was not obtained as the Auditor-General, in his commentary on the Appropriation Report on the accounts of this Presidency for 1921–22, stated that there was no question of sanctions being accorded after the year was over either by the Government or by the Legislative Council to cover the excesses shown in the appropriation accounts, and that no sanctions or reappropriations can be made after the close of the year. The report of the local Public Accounts Committee containing information relating to the excess expenditure was, however, placed on the table of the Legislative Council. This procedure has since been changed at the instance of the Auditor-General and the sanction of the Legislative Council was obtained to excesses over sanctioned grants relating to the year 1922–23. In the case of non-voted items of expenditure, excesses over the sanctioned allotments under the various major heads for the above year required the sanction of Government in the Finance Department and the necessary sanction has been accorded.

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—" May we know if the Government are taking any steps to prevent such recurrence hereafter, namely, of excess expenditure by various departments, and, if so, what steps have been taken ? "

The hon. Mr. R. A. Graham :—" Although all departments are expected to avoid excess expenditure as far as possible, it is not always possible to avoid it, and in every country very much the same thing happens. The procedure we have adopted is, as far as possible, modelled on that of the House of Commons in England."

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—" I simply want to know if Reserved departments are not very obedient and the Transferred departments are very obedient and whether the large excess amounts spent by the departments have to be deducted from the sums that are necessarily to be reserved spent by the Transferred departments ? "

The hon. Mr. R. A. Graham :—" Certainly not, Sir."

Land Revenue.

Failure of crops in Tanjore district.

*54 Q.—Mr. V. Hamid Sultan Marakkayar Sahib : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware that the crops in the Tanjore district have failed owing to scarcity of water in the rivers ; and

(b) whether Government have called for any figures from the local officials showing the details of lands that have yielded this year?

A.—(a) Yes in parts.

(b) No : the usual returns adequately meet the case.

Mr. S. Satyamurti :– " Taking the answers to the two parts of the question together, may I ask the hon. the Revenue Member as to whether he can give any idea to this House of the failure of crops in the district owing to scarcity of water ? "